



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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## USET SPF Resolution No. 2018 SPF:003

### **SUPPORT FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIVE ACT**

**WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and

**WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act, Public Law (P.L) 114-221, was enacted in 2016, and it supports:

- Establishment of a more inclusive U.S. tourism strategy in order to expand economic opportunity to Tribal communities, create jobs, and elevate living standards;
- Leveraging tourism to achieve sustainable growth in Tribal communities, increase tourism capacity, and spur infrastructure development;
- Empowering of Tribal Nations to tell their own stories, and define the scope of tourism activities on Tribal lands, indigenous homelands, and in Tribal communities;
- Strengthening and improving self-determination and self-governance capabilities;
- Enhancing the financial means of Tribal communities to protect cultural resources and preserve natural landscapes;
- Establishment of consultation by federal agencies that have tourism functions, programs, and assets with Tribal communities concerning tourism opportunities;
- Increasing coordination and collaboration between federal tourism assets to support Native American tourism and the development of technologically innovative projects;
- Growing heritage and cultural tourism opportunities throughout the U.S. by showcasing the diversity and continuing vitality of U.S. indigenous cultures;
- Promoting more authentic and unique visitor experiences that will draw international and domestic travelers to rural and remote areas that may not be well known;
- Enhancing the tourism potential of every state and increase U.S. service export revenues; and
- The designation of a facilitator with the organizational mission, knowledge, and experience necessary to capably facilitate coordination between federal agencies and Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations for the purposes of implementing the Act; and

**WHEREAS,** the NATIVE Act mandates improved travel and tourism data collection and analysis, increased usability of public information and federal websites, support for national tourism goals, highlighting programs that can be used for tourism infrastructure in Tribal communities, the development of assets that showcase and respect the diversity of Indian Country, development of bilingual signage, and improvement of access to transportation programs for building capacity in Tribal communities; and

**WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),


whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it


**RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors does hereby call on the federal government to immediately and fully implement Public Law 114-221, the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors supports full federal funding of Public Law 114-221, the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act, which mandates strengthened collaboration and coordination in all aspects of tourism between federal agencies and Tribal Nations and organizations.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, October 12, 2017.

  
Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund

  
Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund